Telephones in Andhra Pradesh villages

1917. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in the district of Nalgonda of Andhra Pradesh, likely to be provided with telephone facilities during the year 1989-90; and

(b) what is the amount of funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Three villages in the District of Nalgonda of Andhra Pradesh are likely to be provided with telephone facilities during the year 1989-90.

(b) No separate funds are allocated for the purpose. Expenditure is met from the lump sum grant placed at the disposal of the circle.

Expansion of telecommunication services in Orissa

1918. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps have been taken so far for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the programme drawn up for implementation in the remaining period of the present plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table oi the House *[See* Appendix CXCIX, Annexure No. 108].

Facilities to ED employees

1919. SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ED Branch Post Masters are getting less emoluments than some of their subordinates; if so, what steps are being taken to remove this anomaly;

(b) whether Government have granted separate hourly rates to ED Delivery Agents doing postman's job as recommended by the Savoor Committee; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to grant various advances to ED employees at par with the regular employees; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. In the extra departmental branch post offices, the extra departmental employees have separate functions to perform. While for their functions the extra departmental agents are attached to the Branch Post Office, the controlling Officer of all extra departmental agents is Inspector of Post Offices or Superintendent of Post Offices.

The allowances of the extra departmental employees are fixed on the basis of their workload. As such there is no anomaly in the emoluments of Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters.

(b) No, Sir. The recommendations of the Committee on extra departmental system for payment of Pro-rata hourly wages to extra departmental agents has not been accepted by Government. A minimum of 40 points workload has been accepted for ED Branch Post Masters and a minimum of Rs. 240/- p.m. has been ensured to each and every EDA (other than EDBPM) irrespective of the workload. The formulation of pro-rata wages cannot be applied in this system